



City of Concord

Weekly City Manager Newsletter

March 19, 2010

CITY AWARDED ADDITIONAL ENERGY GRANT

The City was recently notified by the State Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) that it has been awarded sub-grants under New Hampshire's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program in the following categories:

- **Idling Reduction Technologies:** \$3,850 has been awarded for the purchase and installation of five anti-idling controllers for selected City vehicles. These controllers will enable the emergency lights and other accessories to continue working when the vehicles are parked, while automatically cycling the engine off and on to maintain sufficient battery charge.
- **Lighting Upgrades:** \$51,940 has been awarded for the replacement of 158 inefficient incandescent pedestrian traffic signals with 116 new LED "Walk/Don't Walk" traffic signal displays and 42 new LED countdown pedestrian traffic signal displays.
- **Renewable Energy:** \$100,000 has been awarded to install solar thermal domestic hot water systems at the Police Department and the City's four fire stations.

These funds have been awarded as the result of a competitive grant program designed to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy usage and improve energy efficiency in buildings and transportation. The City expects to receive a formal letter of award from OEP soon. The award of these sub-grants is in addition to the \$203,800 in EECBG funds awarded to the City in December 2009 by the U.S. Department of Energy.

A SURE SIGN OF SPRING

Beaver Meadow Golf Course staff continue to clean up from the recent storms. The City is aiming to open the golf course on March 29th, the earliest opening ever. It is possible the driving range will be open the middle of next week. Check the [Concord Monitor](#) or www.beavermeadowgolfcourse.com for an opening announcement.



PUBLIC REVIEW OF UPDATED TAX MAPS

Today from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM, and 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM; and tomorrow, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Penacook Community Center, the City will hold informational public review sessions to review updated tax maps for the Penacook Village Area of Concord. No appointment is necessary; residents may drop in at any time. All property owners in the Merrimack Valley School District are urged to attend to review their property lines and acreage. For more information call 225-8550.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS/CREDITS

The deadline to submit new applications for property tax exemptions and credits is April 15th. All new applications must be delivered by hand or postmarked by April 15th in order to be considered for the 2010 tax year. Forms are available from the Assessing Office.

April 15th is also the deadline for the annual filing of the A-9 application requesting educational, religious or charitable property tax exemptions.

For more information, call 225-8550.



DOG LICENSING BEGINS APRIL 1ST

In accordance with RSA 466:1, all dogs four months of age or older shall be licensed annually. Before a license is issued, the owner or keeper of the dog must furnish a current rabies certificate if one is not on file with the City Clerk. Licensing fees are as follows:

- \$10.00 for non-spayed or non-neutered dogs;
- \$7.50 for spayed or neutered dogs;
- \$7.50 for dogs under 8 months old;
- \$2.00 for the first dog of owners age 65 and over (regular fee for any additional dogs); and
- \$20.00 for five or more dogs of the same owner.

Owners who license a dog after May 31, 2010 are subject to additional fees.

Residents who are no longer required to license a dog, either because they have relocated outside of Concord or Penacook or they no longer have their pets, are asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 225-8500 or via e-mail at cityclerk@concordnh.gov, so that the City may update its records. This will save tax dollars on certified postage when the City begins the issuance of the \$25.00 civil forfeitures in July for unlicensed dogs. Residents may license their dog in person at the City Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS ON MANCHESTER STREET

This past week, staff from the Engineering Services and Fire Alarm Divisions modified traffic signal operations on the segment of Manchester Street crossing the Merrimack River, between the signals at Exit 13 and Old Turnpike Road. The modifications act to alleviate the long lines of commuter-peak traffic in the Manchester Street left-turn lanes in either direction on the bridge, as well as the long line of traffic coming down Old Turnpike Road toward Manchester Street in the afternoon.



Traffic patterns on this segment of Manchester Street have been steadily changing since the opening of Regional Drive in 2004. Regional Drive, together with Old Turnpike Road, provides drivers with an attractive alternative to Loudon Road for travel between I-93 (at Exit 13) and the industrial park/Route 106 area on the Heights. Traffic volumes on Old Turnpike Road have steadily increased from 7,400 vehicles in 2002 to a current 11,600 vehicles per day.

WATER MAIN REPAIR

On Wednesday, the General Services Department's water crew repaired a leak on the 14-inch water main in North State Street, just south of McGuire Street. The water main had to be turned off, which included shutting down McGuire Street. Approximately 15 houses and businesses were without water for about four hours. Crews were able to repair the leak and be off the street before the afternoon traffic rush. Final paving will take place sometime in May.





SPRING CLEAN-UP

With the arrival of nice weather, the General Services Department's highway crews have started blowing the sand and debris from winter operations off the sidewalks. Crews will continue this work for the next few weeks and the contracted street sweeper should be in the first or second week of April, weather dependent, to do the street sweeping.

SPRING LOAD LIMIT POSTINGS

Spring load limit signs were posted on City roads last week and will remain posted through next week. With the good weather and most of the snow melted, the postings may be removed the first week of April. This would be about 2-3 weeks earlier than most years.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Concord Fire Department held its annual awards ceremony last Friday night at the City Auditorium. The program included an address by Mayor Bouley, a remembrance of the six firefighters who have died in the line of duty throughout the Department's history, and a presentation of service awards. Several unit citations and medals were awarded for the rescue of a man from the roof of a burning house, the rescue of two kayakers from the Merrimack River, the successful resuscitation of a newborn baby, and an encounter with a combative patient with a medical condition who was attempting to drive away from a scene. Two dispatchers were honored for their quick thinking and actions in implementing "Mayday procedures" when a Hooksett firefighter became trapped in a building during a structure fire. Mr. Kenneth Hazeltine received an award for the assistance he rendered to the Department in reporting a fire with a man trapped and for his continued support throughout the incident. Lieutenant Sean Brown was named the Fire Officer of the Year for his outstanding leadership and his dedication to the training and development of the Department.

RESIDENTS COMPLETE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COURSE

Eleven Concord residents completed a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course held at Fire Headquarters over the last two Saturdays. The course covered individual and household preparedness, fire extinguisher use, basic first aid, light search and rescue, and terrorism awareness. The course was provided by the State of New Hampshire and was free of charge. Additional course offerings will be announced in the near future.



*Fire Officer of the Year
Lt. Sean Brown and son Ronan*

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

During the week of March 7th, Fire Prevention staff of the Concord Fire Department delivered a fire extinguisher training class, installed one car seat, performed one plan review, performed 20 field inspections and completed six fire protection consults.



PROJECT LAUNDRY LIST

Starting at Home: A Community Conversation

with Mayor Jim Bouley,
Amanda Osmer, Jonathan
Gregory, Patti Dann and
Nicholas Coates

**Monday, April 19, 2010
5:30 PM
National Hanging Out Day**

**The Conservation Center
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301**

Most climate change policy attention has been addressed to long-term options, such as inducing new, low-carbon energy technologies and creating cap-and-trade regimes for emissions.

Attendees will learn how to save money, energy, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through line drying, water conservation, a few small purchases, some small diet changes, and improved driving and transportation.

How does Concord set an example for the nation? How does America set an example for the rest of the world? *It all begins at home.*

All are welcome to attend this free event sponsored by Project Laundry List.

For more information, call 226-3098.

THE BIG READ

On Monday, March 22nd, at 7:00 PM, the Concord Public Library will hold **The Big Read: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the Role of Defense Lawyers in Society**. Attorney Barbara Keshen will give a presentation about the role of defense lawyers in the criminal justice system. Using the portrayal of Atticus Finch as a starting point, the question of how perceptions of defense lawyers have changed will be discussed. The Big Read program is supported by the NH Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Attorney Keshen is a former New Hampshire public defender and is now a staff attorney at the NH Civil Liberties Union. She is also an adjunct professor at Franklin Pierce Law Center. The Big Read: *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a project of the Center for the Book at the NH State Library. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. This program, co-sponsored by the Concord Public Library Foundation, is free and open to the public.

SNEAK PREVIEW OF NEW BALLET

Those who want to get a free sneak preview of Petit Papillon's ***The Root Children***, a new original ballet of an old folk tale, should stop by the Children's Room at the Concord Public Library on Saturday, March 20th, at 11:00 AM. A few dances from the ballet, and a reading from the fairy tale, will be sure to delight aspiring young dancers, as well as adults who still dance in their hearts. *The Root Children* is based upon the beloved German story written in 1906 about the seasons and how they change, bringing birth and rebirth to nature. The full premier performance will take place the following Saturday, March 27th, at 2:00 and 7:00 PM, at the Concord City Auditorium. For details about the performance and ticket information, visit www.petitpapillon.org.

SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE

Due to overwhelming interest, the Recreation Department has added another time slot for their new Spring Soccer Fundamentals League. The league is for boys and girls, 4-5 years of age, and is held on Saturday mornings at Keach Park beginning on May 1st. The Department also offers spring leagues for children in grades 1-4, as well as adults. For more information, visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation.

YOUTH BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Recreation Department's Youth Basketball Program concluded this week with five championship games. This year we had over 600 children playing in our youth leagues and 139 adult volunteers. Congratulations to all players and coaches for another great year!



5th-6th Grade Boy Winners